

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:313
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
SETTING UP OF LABORATORIES
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICMR has any proposal to set up laboratories in various parts of the country for effectively tackling the outbreak of diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these will be set up, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) : The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has a network of 26 permanent institutes strategically located in various parts of the country. A large number of them deal with infectious diseases, particularly, those which can cause outbreaks. Many of these institutes have state of art facilities to tackle outbreaks including Biosafety level 3+ facilities, cyroelection microscopes, animal house facilities

(to do animal experiments to confirm diagnosis and raise reagents), public health specialists trained in outbreak investigation, repositories for outbreak causing agents (like V. cholerae, Shigella, Rotaviruses, hepatitis virus, Poliomyelitis, influenza, measles, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, West Nile, Malaria, leishmaniasis etc.) help to know if a new organism or agent/modified organism has entered the country. The Institutes do resistance mapping and track the spread of infection not only in India but abroad also. ICMR has also planned to further strengthened and upgrade the skills and infrastructure in some of the existing institutions in the 11th Plan.